

Tyler

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

DIVISION OF BIOLOGY

October 19, 1959

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Josh:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 13, and for reading the chapter on immunological phenomena for the book on physiological mechanisms concerned with conception.

For a quick scan you certainly managed to pick up more significant things that required change or improvement than had the dozen people who participated in the sessions that formed the basis for this chapter.

You are quite right about my having been less critical than some of the cited work would warrant. This probably applies particularly to the work of the participants in the conference. At the same time I felt that perhaps the discussion of general immunological problems in the introduction would serve to put some of the later described experiments in some sort of frame of reference, or at least provide them with their own basis for criticism.

You asked about some clean anti-acrosome antibodies. We do not have any as such, but might be able to clean up some preparations that are likely to have anti-acrosome, anti-fertilizin, and anti-other things of sea urchins, and of keyhole limpets. Perhaps antiserum against a good preparation of beef testis-hyaluronidase might serve as a reasonably good anti-acrosome.

I am a bit disappointed that male fertility in *E. coli* turns out to be sensitive to periodate. In animals it is the female partner, namely the eggs, in which the receptors are polysaccharidic or glycoprotein nature. This seems to be the case also in *Chlamydomonas*, and according to Böck I gather that this is so in yeast. For awhile it looked almost as though the females of all animals, plants and microorganisms might turn out to be the sweet sex.

I go back to the hospital on Monday for a second stage, presumably the easier stage, of an intestinal repair job. I hope we shall get a chance to look into some of the questions we have been discussing later on, especially on an experimental basis.

Stephen was very pleased that you remembered the discussion³ at Woods Hole. Unfortunately, he has been so busy with school work that he has no time, and probably no ideas, concerning these more interesting things.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. Tyler'.

A. Tyler

AT:sc